



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Acquisition of the El Capitan Ranch as an Addition to El Capitan State Beach

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will hold a hearing to receive public comment on its proposal to acquire from a willing seller approximately 2,500 acres of the El Capitan Ranch property located 9 miles west of Goleta in Santa Barbara County.

The hearing will be held on Wednesday, April 3, 2002 at 7:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room of the Goleta Public Library at 500 North Fairview Avenue in Goleta. The facility has adjacent public parking and is accessible to persons with disabilities.

The El Capitan Ranch property is a spectacular 1.5-mile stretch of unprotected and mostly undeveloped upland coastal foothills providing a relatively intact example of an historic California coastal ranching landscape. Bordered on the south by El Capitan State Beach and on the north by Los Padres National Forest, the property contains habitat critical for several threatened and endangered species, including the California red-legged frog and southern steelhead trout. The water source for El Capitan State Beach is located on the property. Acquisition by State Parks could provide watershed and viewshed protection, cultural sites preservation, mature oak woodland and riparian habitat stability, and forest to coast habitat and trail linkages. The acquisition is consistent with the Local Coastal Plan and Santa Barbara County General Plan.

This notice and a map of the proposed acquisition have been provided to the hearing location library for posting. They are also available at www.parks.ca.gov.

The purpose of the hearing is to record comments from local public officials and the general public on reasons the El Capitan Ranch should or should not be acquired for state park purposes. A brief introductory presentation by DPR staff will precede the formal receipt of comments.

Written comments will also be accepted at the hearing or subsequent to the hearing if received no later than April 17, 2002. Written comments may be either mailed to Warren Westrup, Chief, Office of Acquisition and Real Property Services, California Department of Parks and Recreation, One Capitol Mall, Suite 500, Sacramento, CA 95814, faxed to (916) 327-7307 or e-mailed to smill@parks.ca.gov

Please direct any inquiries regarding this notice or requests for special assistance to Skip Mills at (916) 445-9088 or smill@parks.ca.gov.

Warren E. Westrup, Chief
Office of Acquisition and Real Property Services
California Department of Parks and Recreation